

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.

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LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues>

Vol. 16, No.4 — April 2007

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

April

Earth Day — April 22

- 3-5 **Pacific Salmon Conference**, Portland, OR. For information: Erick Dickey, 541-737-2715 or <http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/resilience>
- 17-20 **Tribal Basic Inspector Training**, Portland, OR. Apps due March 19. Info: John Mead, 928-523-1055
- 24-26 **Air Quality System, Level 3 training**, Seattle, WA. Info: Lydia Scheer 928-523-6887 or http://www4.nau.edu/itep/trainings/aiaqtp_air_qlty_system.asp
- 24-26 **RTOC meeting & Tribal Caucus**, Seattle, WA. Info: Mary Beth Clark, 206-553-6358
- 26-28 **24th Annual Gathering of Nations Powwow**, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. For information: <http://www.gatheringofnations.com/powwow/index.htm>

May

- 18-22 **Indigenous Waters Network River Rally**, Stevenson, WA. For information: <http://www.rivernetwork.org/rally>

June

- 3-6 **Western State Wetlands Workshop**, Park City, UT. For information: <http://www.aswm.org/calendar/lt&lg/lt&lg2.htm>
- 11-15 **Sharing Indigenous Wisdom: An International Dialogue on Sustainable Development**, GreenBay, WI. For information: <http://www.sharingindigenouswisdom.org/>

<> EVENT <>

Columbia River Conference

The Estuary Partnership and the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) are hosting "**Science to Policy: Many Perspectives, One River**," a technical conference **May 7 to 9** in Vancouver, Washington. The conference will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the National Estuary Program.

The anniversary, along with the EPA's designation of the Columbia River as a *Great Water Body*, provides a perfect opportunity to discuss conditions in the lower river, learn newly completed toxics monitoring information from the Estuary Partnership, and to define challenges for the next five years.

Technical sessions will be held from Monday afternoon to Wednesday morning and feature speakers from the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA Fisheries, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, EPA, USGS, Washington Departments of Ecology and Health. A poster session will be held on Monday evening.

USGS will share its latest findings from the National Water Quality Assessment Program, including information from the Willamette, Snake and Yakima Study Units, as well as current and upcoming products from the Pacific Northwest Major River Basin work in the Columbia Basin. Other sessions will

focus on such topics as nutrients, mercury, pesticides, emerging contaminants, flame retardants, and contaminants in fish and wildlife.

You can download a registration form at http://www.lcrep.org/science_policy.htm. A conference agenda, lodging information and directions are also available at this website. For more information or to reserve space for a poster, please contact Greg Fuhrer at 503-251-3231, [gjfhrrer@usgs.gov](mailto:gjfuhrrer@usgs.gov), Deb Marriott at 503-226-1565 x227, marriott@lcrep.org, or Jill Leary at 503-226-1565 x235, leary@lcrep.org.

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Earth Day April 22

Earth Day is a commemoration to remind us of our connection to the world around us. It is a day to reflect on the many ways we affect the natural environment.



We can all do simple things every day to lessen our impact on the Earth, from recycling to riding the bus. This **Earth Day**, do something out of the ordinary and you may discover a new way to change the world for the better. You can learn more about **Earth Day** at: <http://www.epa.gov/earthday> or at <http://www.earthday.gov/>

Forum on Contaminants in Fish

Join colleagues in Portland, Maine, **July 23 to 26**, to learn about the latest issues regarding chemical contaminants in fish at the 2007 National Forum on Contaminants in Fish.

The Forum is co-sponsored by EPA and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. General topics for the 2007 Forum include: sampling and analysis of emergent contaminants, risk communication, risk assessment / toxicology / chemical profiles, risk management, health benefits, and biomonitoring.

Encouraged to attend are health and environmental officials from state, tribal and federal agencies, as well as others interested in presenting and discussing issues related to the assessment and management of potential health risks associated with dietary exposure to bioaccumulative chemical contaminants in fish.

The poster session, which will open on the evening of Monday, July 23, and meeting breaks will give participants a chance to meet with their peers to informally discuss current topics.

If you have an idea for a poster, please send an abstract to snw@rti.org **no later than June 1**. For more information, please visit: <http://fishforum.rti.org/>

Tribal Leaders Summit 2008

It's now official. The Squaxin Island Tribe will host the 2008 Tribal Leaders Summit at the Little Creek Hotel and Conference Center, near Shelton Washington. The Summit will start on **April 22 and end April 24, 2008**. April 21 will be set up for state caucuses.



Paddle to Lummi

"Traveling the Traditional Highways of our Ancestors" will be held on **Monday, July 30**, at the Lummi Stommish Grounds, Lummi, Washington. Join the Lummi Nation as they host the ever growing Canoe Journeys. Share in Lummi's hospitality with canoes from Oregon and all across the Pacific Northwest, as far as the Aleutian Islands. For more information, visit <http://www.paddletolummi.com> or contact Freddie Lane at freddielane@paddletolummi.com.

Pediatric Training / Toolkit

A half-day training program for health professionals will be held on **May 24, 2007**, at the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle, to introduce participants to a new clinical resource for practitioners: the "Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit." Attendees will receive a complete toolkit to test in their own practices. The kit contains handy reference and guidance cards and attractive "Rx for Prevention" patient materials. Registration is free. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Dickeman at 206-354-2170 or nancyd@wpsr.org.

Tribal Water Quality Standards

E EPA has developed a pamphlet and video that describe how water quality standards protect tribal waters.

N “How Water Quality Standards Protect Tribal Waters” is a colorful EPA publication designed to help tribes develop their own water quality standards program. The document provides an introduction to water quality standards, discusses the benefits of a standards program on reservation lands, and answers some frequently asked questions about the process to obtain EPA authorization to conduct the program.

V <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/tribes/files/howwqsprotect.pdf>

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Our Water Our Future: Saving Our Tribal Life Force Together is a video that documents the successful protection of water quality on Native American reservations shows the efforts of the Pueblo of Acoma in New Mexico and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation in Washington in developing water quality standards. Visit: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/tribes/videoreal.htm>

These are excellent outreach materials for the general public, schools and groups. To order the pamphlet, video, or both, call or e-mail the Public Environmental Resource Center at 206-553-1200 or 800-424-4372.

Emergency Drinking Water



The EPA has updated and improved its advice for how to disinfect drinking water in situations where tap water may be unsafe to drink due to an emergency. The updated version of *Emergency Disinfection of Drinking Water* includes metric measurements and line drawings that clearly illustrate different disinfection methods.

Emergency Disinfection also highlights four crucial steps to take when the water supply may be contaminated. Agreement on these steps is the result of collaboration between EPA, other U.S. federal agencies and the Red Cross.

The publication is available in English, Spanish, French, Vietnamese, and Standard Arabic on the Safewater website at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/emerg.html>

WaterTalk Newsletter

Here's a helpful free resource. *WaterTalk Newsletter*, a quarterly bulletin, offers current, practical water-issue news from EPA Region 10. *WaterTalk* is a useful tool for those who protect water resources and ecosystems in communities of the greater Pacific Northwest.

Learn about model initiatives, funding opportunities, free resources, environmental events. To see past issues, or to sign up to get the newsletter by e-mail, go to <http://www.epa.gov/region10>. Click on Index, then W for *WaterTalk*. You will find an option to get on the **Region 10 Water News Listserv**. Each quarter, an e-mail will tell you when the new *WaterTalk* is ready and link you to its website. Once in awhile, you will get other water-related e-news from EPA. For more information, or to sign up for a hard-copy mailing, call Andrea Lindsay, Editor, EPA, at 206-553-1896 or 800-424-4372.

Chlorine Safety Manual

This free, online, manual provides safety information for employers who use chlorine gas for water or sewage treatment and for people who work with or around chlorine gas, including those who repair or maintain chlorine systems. The manual is available at: http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/by_topic/assets/pdf/chlorine.pdf

CAMEO Website

The Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) has a website where you can look up information on hazardous materials. You can mix chemicals together (at least virtually) to see what might happen. This information is available on CAMEO's chemical database at: <http://cameochemicals.noaa.gov>



Children's Fire Protection

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has released a new game for parents and teachers to use to teach kids how to prepare for an emergency. To download the free game, visit: <http://www.riskwatch.org/kids.html#>

Earth 911

Many environmental programs focus on either repairing damage that has already been sustained or attempting to return the environment to its original state prior to the advancement of industrialized societies. *Earth 911* seeks to empower the public with community-specific resources to improve their quality of life. Call 800-253-2687 or visit: <http://www.earth911.org/master.asp> to access information about community-specific environmental issues at no cost.

Kids Get a Healthy Boost

Head Start children and their families could face fewer asthma attacks thanks to a new agreement between the EPA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The agencies will work together to educate Head Start families about the risks their children face from secondhand smoke and other environmental asthma triggers.

"Every parent hopes their child will grow up happy, healthy and strong," said Bill Wehrum, Acting Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "By providing a smoke-free home environment, parents can keep their children on the path toward a promising future."



"Asthma is the most common chronic childhood disease among Head Start children," said HHS Assistant Secretary for Children and Families

Wade F. Horn. "I look forward to working with the EPA to educate Head Start families on creating the healthiest homes possible for their children."

EPA will work with Head Start state collaboration offices to educate Head Start staff and families about comprehensive asthma environmental management practices and secondhand smoke prevention. Partnership efforts will also focus on motivating families

to take actions to reduce second-hand smoke exposure and other indoor asthma triggers.



"Secondhand smoke is a health hazard for all people," said Acting Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu. "It is harmful to our children whether they are exposed in their homes or in public, and brief exposure to secondhand smoke can trigger an asthma attack in children who already have asthma. I commend the collaboration HHS and the EPA have formed to prevent secondhand smoke exposure to our nation's children."

About 20 percent of children with asthma are exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes. By taking steps to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, Head Start families can reduce or prevent serious health risks, including more frequent and severe asthma attacks, upper and lower respiratory tract infections and acute middle ear infections.

For information about EPA's asthma and smoke-free programs, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/headstart>



Environmental Health Newsletter

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The *Environmental Health Newsletter* is published online daily at <http://www.EnvironmentalHealthNews.org> by Environmental Health Science, a not-for-profit organization. It was founded in 2002 to help increase public understanding of emerging scientific links between environmental exposures and human health. The site contains news about environmental health issues. Visitors may sign up for the free e-mail newsletter.

A New CDC Service

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a new service available. The Emergency Response and Preparedness Really Simple Syndication (RSS) provides a way to receive automatic updates and emergency bulletins from the CDC on quality threats and issues. Water utilities may elect to receive automatic alerts about a variety of biological, chemical and radiological issues or problems via the RSS. You can set up an RSS feed by going to: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/rss> and following the directions provided.

Agencies Explore Contamination in Washington

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By **Seth Preston**, Public Information Officer, Toxics Cleanup Program, Washington Department of Ecology

EPA is taking part in an effort to examine sediment contamination caused by a certain group of chemicals in Washington waters.

Phthalates (**thal** ates) are pollutants found in our air, soil and water. Phthalates are plasticizers used widely in consumer products such as cosmetics, vinyl flooring, children's toys, flexible plastics, lubricants, and adhesives. Each chemical has different characteristics and potential effects.

Sediments in urban areas of Puget Sound frequently contain phthalates above Washington Department of Ecology cleanup levels, which are set to protect aquatic organisms. Research shows phthalates wind up in marine sediments

and can harm organisms that live there. Phthalates enter waters many ways, and little is known about how to control or treat phthalate contamination.

EPA is part of the Sediment Phthalates Work Group along with the Washington Department of Ecology, the City of Tacoma, King County, and the City of Seattle. Group members are researching phthalate issues and expect to recommend possible actions in coming months.

For information about phthalates, the Sediment Phthalates Work Group and how you can participate, see http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/smu/phthalates/phthalates_hp.htm

White House Internship

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The White House Internship Program offers an excellent opportunity to serve the President and explore public service. The program is seeking exceptional candidates to apply for this highly competitive program. In addition to typical office duties, interns attend weekly lectures, tours and complete an intern service project.

Interns may serve a term in the fall. Every candidate must be a United States citizen, enrolled in a college or university and at least 18 years of age.

An application and additional information about the program can be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/wh-intern.html>

Applications can be submitted to Karen Race, Deputy Director and Intern Coordinator, White House Personnel, at intern_application@whitehouse.gov **no later than June 26, 2007** for fall 2007 (September 4 to December 14, 2007). If you have questions, contact Karen Race at 202-456-5979.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Tribal Program
1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-085
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

Check out EPA's page of links for Web-savvy kids:
<http://www.epa.gov/indian/kidlinks.htm>

To Report Spills and Accidents

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of
hazardous material spills or accidents.

Alaska	800-478-9300	Washington	800-258-5990
Idaho	800-424-8802	National (EPA)	800-424-8301
Oregon	800-452-0311		

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